



THE HOWLER



WOLVES DEVOUR LIONS



The HAS Wolves tip off against the AAIA Lions Friday, Nov. 20 at Hsinchu American School. The Wolves defeated the Lions 43-32. (Photo/Ethan Murphy)

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(Photo/Tanya Hsiao)



LOCAL NEWS

History Fair - Thanksgiving - Winter Performance Preview -
Elementary Lemonade/Hot Chocolate Sales

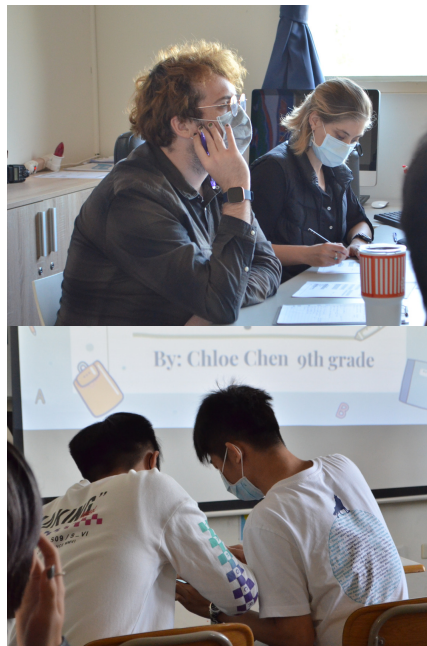
From Semaphore Flags to iPhones

BY BRYAN SHANTZ

Each year, HAS has a history fair where students are encouraged to explore the history of a certain topic chosen by the school. This year's topic was "The History of Communication." Each student was responsible for choosing a topic related to communication and creating a slideshow introducing their chosen topic to the judges and their fellow classmates.

Reflection: Mr. Loi

Mr Loi was one of the judges who looked over student presentations. He said he "enjoyed the history fair. It's always good to see the students do their own research. They get to work on a lot of important skills like research and presentation skills and develop confidence in both." Here are Mr. Loi's thoughts on improvements: "I think the most obvious thing that could have been improved was not letting students present on the same topic. Still giving students the choice on what topic they wanted to present on and no repeats, I think that would have made everybody kind of more creative and do something less expected."



(Photos/Kelly Ho)

Reflection: Andrew Kim

Kim was one of the many students who chose to present on the telephone. He chose the topic "Because it was the most obvious and easiest topic." The hardest part of the presentation according to Kim was that "the judges asked a bunch of difficult questions which I really struggled to answer." Kim's reflection on what can make next year's history fair better: "A better topic. The topic was, in my opinion, not very interesting."



The Most Festive Day of the Year!

BY JOSEPH CHOU

"This is the best day ever!" said HAS junior Tanya Hsiao. This Nov. 26, HAS celebrated Thanksgiving. This year was almost the same as last year. This year the school had almost 200 people join the celebration. Every student brought some food to school, got together with teachers and parents, and celebrated together by giving thanks for what they have. "The best part of this event is that we can invite all the parents or friends of school to come over and have a piece," said HAS administrative director Sonia Murphy. Some of the students bring different types of food. Some of them bring Chinese food and some of them bring American food. Many students see this as a good thing because it is a mixture of Asian culture and American Culture celebrated American culture in Taiwan.



HAS Parents fill their plates with a variety of Western and Asian dishes. (Photos/Kelly Ho)



"I enjoy eating the most because this is the only day I have a chance to taste different types of dishes."

- Tanya Hsiao

After the meal, students participated in school activities that were planned by Student Council. The main activity this year was American football. The teams were split into two opposing forces: teachers versus students. Everyone was trying their best to get as many points as they could. The teachers team defeated the students 7-1. Even though the teachers won the game, everyone was really happy and enjoyed the game.

Lemonade + Chocolate = Tasty Economics

BY BRYAN SHANTZ



(Photos/Ms. Keller)

This past month, we saw the elementary students launch two businesses. The 3rd graders with Mrs. Román selling hot chocolate and 5th graders with Ms. Keller selling lemonade. In an interview with Mrs. Román, she said she “was starting a business in order to learn about the process of economic and the good and the services and how goods and services are used in every business.” The use of the words in an actual business helped the students better understand the vocabulary they had learned. In the end, the students decided the money they made would be donated mostly to the cooking club, but also to the community service club as well.

Our second business started was a lemonade stand by the 5th graders. In an interview with Ms. Keller, she said “They also had to have a practical application of the skills they were learning in math, so addition and subtraction. Especially addition and subtraction with decimals. They also had to do some multiplication and basic division with decimals and whole numbers.” The money ended up being donated to the No Shave November charity led by the community service club. In a survey worksheet given to the 5th grade students most of them said they enjoyed making the lemonade and are enthusiastic about possibly doing it again in the future.



(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Román)

2020 Winter Performance Preview

BY EN SUN



Chris Tung started to play piano when he was in first grade. When asked why he wanted to learn to play the piano, he said "My parents forced my to play it." Then, I asked Tung about how he feels about his parents forcing him to learn piano. "Well, at first I actually feel really mad, but later, like one year when I was performing in Winter Performance, I started to feel quite happy to perform. Then I started to like playing music," he said. He practices 30 minutes a day to prepare for his performance.

The Winter Performance is a chance to show your classmates and parents how talented you are. It's an event that everyone gets to participate in. It's an event many look forward to. According to Johnny Yang, he is very excited for the performance. Yang said he won't regret his choice to participate.



(Photos/Jeremiah Wilson)

FEATURES

PS5 - Presidential Election Survey



Get hyped for PS5!

BY RYAN LIN

The next generation of PlayStation is finally here with the arrival of the PS5. The PS5 is a home video game console that offers a compelling next-gen gaming experience developed by Sony. Compared to the previous version of PlayStation 4, Sony has made a great deal of huge upgrades in the PS5. Function-wise on the PS5, it is best known as having a fast CPU which can dramatically decrease generation time. Although it has slightly less storage capacity than the PS4, the usage of the solid state drive (SSD) brings PS5 faster read and write times, making games load in just a few seconds, both when you start them up and during play..



However, PS5 is still not available for Taiwan according a gaming store in Taipei. Most of the stores are still waiting for the message and information from the official PlayStation company on the time and date PS5 being available.



(Photo/Ray Ian Ampoloquio)

The new coming of PS5 has made a lot of gamers around the world excited about experiencing the high quality of graphic design in the games and the extreme time-saving game loading time. One of our Wolves, Eagle Lee, is fascinated by the insane evolution PS5 has for the new generation of gaming. "You can play more games and have better control," said Lee. He also said that the different shape and appearance of PS5 makes it look fancier and more professional. According to the local PlayStation store in Taipei, the current price for a PS5 with disc drive is NT15,980. "I think it's expensive but I think it is worth it because it can support more devices and more games and higher quality and higher pixels," said Lee.

The HAS School U.S. Election

BY ANDREW KIM

The Winner of our School U.S. Presidential Election:
Donald J. Trump



(Photo/PBS.org)

In order to find out who would get a higher number of votes between Donald Trump and Joe Biden among HAS students, we sent a survey to every high school student possible. The survey asked which candidate they would vote for, Donald Trump or Joe Biden. We then asked, Why do you support the candidate or why not? The survey did a great job of protecting personal privacy while getting the information that we needed very effectively. After reviewing the results, we can confidently report that most HAS students have chosen Donald J. Trump as their "president" over Joe Biden.

"I support Trump!
Trump!"
-Andy Liu

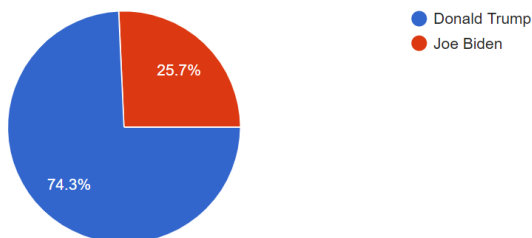
"I would obviously
vote Joe Biden."
-Bill Cheng

Below is a quote from an anonymous HAS student who supports Trump: "That is because he is a president that believes in the Constitution. He believes that abortion is wrong, he also believes that United States should build a wall to stop illegal immigrants from coming into the country who are in most cases criminals. He also heavily criticized China and took action to stop them from continuing their madness. He is also the president that is fighting against the fake media such as CNN and MSNBC. He is also fighting for freedom of religion to secure Christianity to secure the Constitution from the evil liberal forces that oppose and want to get rid of the Christian fundamentals that create the country. God Bless Donald Trump and God Bless America."

Below is a quote from an anonymous HAS student who supports Biden: "He has more concrete plans on healthcare, combatting climate change, and is more respectful of people. He is an actual politician and did not go bankrupt and depend on daddy's money."

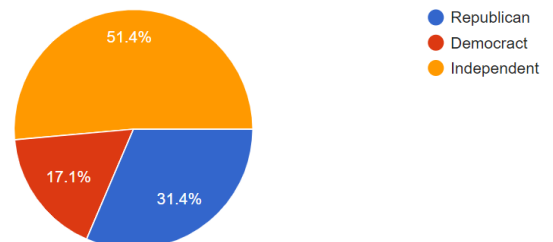
If you had to choose, who would you vote for or prefer to be the president?

35 responses



In politics today which political party do you consider yourself as?

35 responses



(Graphics/ Andrew Kim)

The above chart shows that out of the 35 people surveyed, 74.3% (which is 26 people) voted for Donald Trump and only 25.7% (which is 9) people voted for Joe Biden.

The above chart shows that out of 35 people surveyed, 51.4% (18 people) voted that they are independent, 31.4% (11 people) voted that they are Republican, and 17.1% (6 people) voted that they are Democrats.

HAS SPORTS

Boys Basketball: AAIA - Equestrian Club - Tri-Country Rugby Championships



(Photo/Tanya Hsiao)

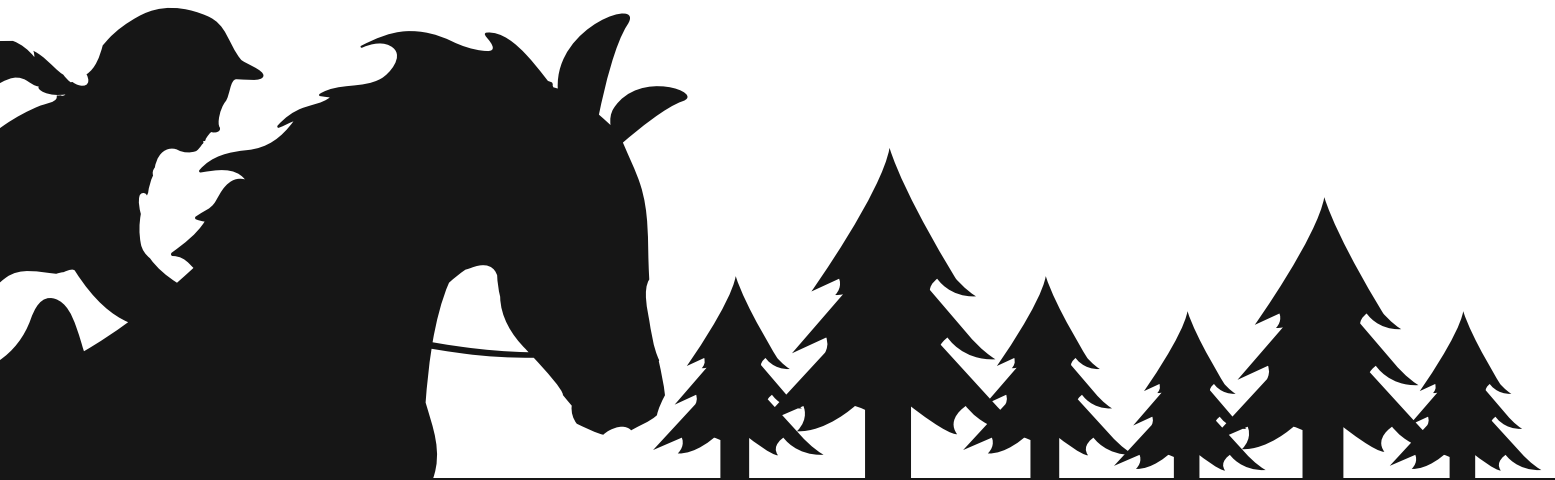


HAS sophomore Bill Cheng goes for the lay up against the AAIA Lions on Friday, Nov. 20. The Wolves beat the Lions 43-32. (Photo/ Ethan Murphy)

Taking Revenge: HAS vs. AAIA

BY ROBERT WANG

On December 20, 2020, there was a basketball game between HAS and AAIA. For people who don't know what AAIA is, AAIA is the Asian American International Academy and it's located in New Taipei City. In the current basketball season, HAS has played against them twice. In the first game, the HAS basketball team lost; however, they won the second game and took their revenge. According to many of HAS' basketball players, AAIA is pretty good at basketball. Ryan Lin, a senior starter for the HAS basketball team said, "They are a strong team. Since we lost to them for the first game." After the first game, the HAS basketball team concluded a reason that caused their failure. "The first game, the team wasn't in that good teamwork and chemistry," said Lin. Before the second basketball game was played, most of HAS' players weren't very confident. Alex Tung, another senior player, said, "Before the game, most of us did not believe we could win this game and I wasn't being confident either." However, the HAS basketball team won the game eventually. "I believe that this victory can mainly be attributed to our defensive plays," said Tung. Overall, this epic game resulted in a 43-32 defeat of the AAIA Lions by the HAS Wolves.



Kick Up Your Heels!

BY EVONNE HSU

4 P.M.
THURS
DAYS



(Photo/ Kelly Ho)

Equestrian Club members take weekly riding lessons around 4 p.m. in Longtan, Taoyuan. This is a newly created club at HAS and there are currently four members in it. This club provides opportunities for students of all abilities to try horseback riding, no matter what student's level may be. They had one basic lesson about the type of horses they ride and two actual riding lessons. After three lessons, club member Bertram Su said, "It's ok, it could get interesting later, but for now we're just learning the basics. We are just running in circles, so then it's not bad. It's ok." In past lessons, the members were just riding their horses around the circle and learning the basics. Eugene Gao, an HAS sixth grader, thinks that, "Qi ma is fun!" All are encouraged to join the Equestrian Club, whether they like riding horses or just want to try something new!



(Photo/ Kelly Ho)

Tri Nations: The Rugby Championship

BY ANDY LIU



Argentina battles New Zealand during a rugby match. (Photo/The Roar)

"I think Argentina team will win!"
- Robert Wang



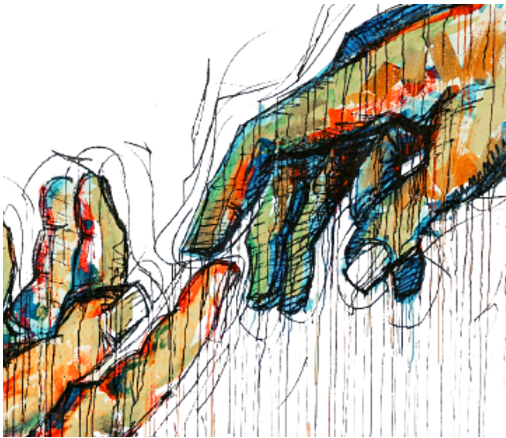
Argentina and Australia get gritty on the pitch.
(Photo/The Guardian)

The Tri Nations Series is a series of rugby championships involving three countries. The 2020 Tri Nations series is the seventeenth edition of the Tri Nations series. It is an annual Southern Hemisphere competition that involves three teams from three countries. The three countries involved in the game are Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand. The winner of the 2019 Tri Nations Series is South Africa. The South African team confirmed their withdrawal from the 2020 Tri Nations Series due to player welfare and safety concerns related to COVID-19. This means that the competition will temporarily return to its previous Tri Nations format. The three countries played across six weekends with each team playing each other twice. The competition is operated by SANZAAR, which is known as South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Argentina Rugby teams. The plan for the games is that each side will play the other once at home and once away, giving a total of six matches each, or twelve in total. A win earns a team four league points, a draw two league points, and a loss (by eight or more points) zero league points. A bonus point is earned in one of two ways: by scoring at least three tries more than the opponent in a match or losing by seven points or fewer. The competition winner is the side with the most points at the end of the tournament. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the competition went through several schedule changes through 2020. Many find it fun to watch and it is considered a very good international rugby game by many fans.

OP-ED

STARS CAN'T SHINE WITHOUT DARKNESS

BY VICTORIA LO



(Image/Seaha Center)

Stars can't shine without darkness. Without bad things happening in your life, you would not realize what the good ones are. Without rain and cold winter, there won't be rainbows. Life is hard at times. There are times that I even blamed my Mum for bringing me into this world. And my parents shared a few stories that really touched my heart and lit up my tunnel. Here are the two most unforgettable stories that they shared.

Nick Vujicic is an Australian man that was born without arms and legs. He faced tremendous obstacles in life from living a life without limbs, being bullied at school and fearful for his future with no purpose in sight. Without hope, his feelings of helplessness and isolation led him to attempt suicide. Vujicic persevered through life's challenges and discovered key principles that enabled him to find his purpose and turn obstacles into opportunities. Imagine how difficult it would be when you need to walk without legs, however, he did it.

He also trained himself so that he can swim, play golf, do boxing, etc. making him one of the most sought-after keynote speakers in the world. Millions of people have found hope, purpose, and the strength to overcome their challenges through Vujicic's inspirational speeches and powerful coaching. If Vujicic hadn't experienced depression, embarrassment, how could he feel success just after doing things that normal people can?

James Dyson, known as the founder of the brand Dyson, which created fashionable hair dryers and other electronic devices. In his early days, Dyson became frustrated with his vacuum cleaner's diminishing performance. Taking it apart, he discovered that its bag was clogging with dust, causing suction to drop. So he set to work. Five years and 5,127 prototypes later, he had invented the world's first bagless vacuum cleaner. Every time he failed, he thought about reasons for failures and on the 5128th time, he succeeded.

"There's always light at the back of the tunnel."
- Victoria Lo



(Illustration/Washington Post)

Some people might think that failure is a step backward, but it's not true. I believe that failure is a step in the right direction. It's uneasy, but shining in the darkness is the thing that you should do when you are in the midst of a trial or misfortune in your life. It's like looking at a picture and seeing the good times between the bad ones. Always be optimistic no matter what. If you have no better choice, then allow life to happen to you in miraculous ways and know that there's always light at the end of the tunnel.

"Stay strong and shine the brightest, always treasure each experience you have because just like you, stars can't shine without darkness."
- Victoria Lo



(Illustration/Joseph Chou)